

St. Gabriel's
25 years

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St. Gabriel's
25 Years



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Diocese of Charlotte · P.O. Box 36776, Charlotte, N.C. 28236 · (704) 377 6871

August, 1982

TO: Reverend Thomas Walsh, Pastor
Reverend Myles Quail, Assistant Pastor
Parishioners of Saint Gabriel's

Congratulations on the occasion of your Silver Jubilee as a Parish!

As memory takes me back, I clearly recall the decision to found a new parish in the Providence Road area of Charlotte. I suppose one of the significant recollections would be my first visit to the area and the inspection of the "quail hut", wherein thousands of birds had been residing. Indeed, many changes have taken place through these twenty-five years - from such humble beginnings to a parish consisting of over 1,300 families!

I congratulate you for making the growth of Saint Gabriel's possible, and I am grateful for your help and support to the Diocese of Charlotte.

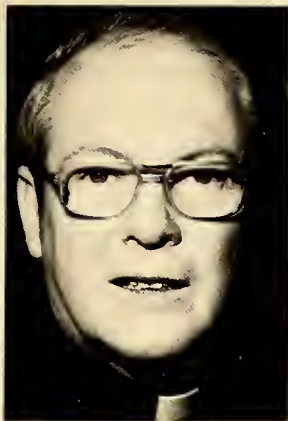
May God bless each of you, and may Saint Gabriel's Parish continue for many, many years its fine work for the Honor and Glory of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Michael J. Begley,
Bishop of Charlotte

MJB/al

3072
3-17-82



St. Gabriel's Catholic Church
3016 PROVIDENCE ROAD, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28211

July 12, 1982

Dear Members of St. Gabriel's:

To celebrate, means to share something by doing something together. Our Celebration of our 25th Anniversary is an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for the gift of Life in Grace.

Twenty-five years is not much in the course of history, but it is alot for us human beings. We are sometimes unaware of the people who worked to bring us the message of the Gospel. We are reminded of that courage and effort by our celebration at this time. The founding Pastor, Father J. Paul Byron, will be able to join us along with a number of the first parishioners of St. Gabriel's.

The priests of St. Gabriel's thank you for your acceptance and support.

Sincerely in Christ,

Thomas R. Walsh

Father Thomas R. Walsh

Fr. Myles E. Quail

Father Myles E. Quail

Hill

NCC
NCH

1956

Catholics To Build Church On Providence Road

A new Catholic church is to be erected in Charlotte, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh said Sunday.

The new church will be on Providence Road near the Sharon-Amity intersection.

Construction is expected to begin this week, with grading now nearly complete.

Bishop Waters indicated that the church will serve a new parish to be created soon. Final boundary lines for the parish and selection of the church name will be announced later.

The first building to be erect-

ed is a spacious auditorium. It will serve first as the parish church.

Later, the church will add a school building to the auditorium and will construct a church also.

Already on the property, purchased about a year ago, is a rectory and a residence being

used by the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, four sisters whose religious education work covers the western portion of North Carolina.

At present there are five Catholic churches in Charlotte

—Our Lady of Consolation, St. Patrick's, St. Peter's, Our Lady of the Assumption, and St. Ann's.

Charlotte Observer article 1956

A parish could not have had a stronger foundation. Blessed by God with a strong sense of community and an enthusiastic first pastor, St. Gabriel's opened its doors in 1957.

From the very beginning, the history of St. Gabriel's has been dedicated to God . . . and dictated by growth.

There were five Catholic parishes in Charlotte in 1955 — St. Peter's, St. Patrick's, Our Lady of Consolation, Our Lady of Assumption and the recently established, St. Ann's.

Anticipating southeast Charlotte's continued growth, Bishop Navaugh of the Diocese of Raleigh purchased the Hatcher and Wall properties on Providence Road near Sharon Amity in the Fall of 1955. One year later, in October, 1956, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh announced a new Catholic church would be built on the property. Construction began in a matter of months and the church was soon built.

In early August, 1957, Bishop Waters sent an appointment to Father J. Paul Byron to be the founding pastor of St. Gabriel's in Charlotte. The news of his assignment reached Fr. Byron in Durham, where he was administering the new church of the Immaculate Conception. "I was lunching at the time," recalls Fr. Byron, "and I rose from the table and drove straight to Charlotte."

Father Byron recounts his first impression of St. Gabriel's.

"I found it; one mile from the then city limits at Wendover Road, a small brick building that looked like a telephone office, with a tiny clearing around it giving over to weeds, a frame house behind, a brick house below, and all the rest trees.

"I peered in windows and prowled through woods, and found the old quail barns and the pond, whose

frogs I would hear every night for several years; and I thought, what a swell place! In the ten years of my life I spent there, I never changed my mind.

"Monsignor Manley of St. Patrick's announced the new parish lines and I moved into the empty brick house (now the convent) with a folding chair and a bed. (The Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart then occupied the residence behind the church.) I borrowed a cafeteria table for the first altar in the empty church and passed a shoe box for that essential Catholic thing, the collection. We celebrated the first Mass together on September 15, 1957. There were 175 families."

Gladys Parker, who, along with Nan Bondurant, made the first altar cloths and supplied the candles



St. Gabriel's Church was built in 1956.



The rectory and convent were on the property when it was purchased in 1955.



and flowers for the first Mass, remembers the service. "Father Byron introduced himself with little fanfare, such a happy priest. He explained that there were few furnishings in the rectory and many things needed in the church."

Following this appeal, many parishioners came forward with offers of spare furniture for the rectory. Robert Wilson collected the items in a truck. Frank Tesi and George Lund offered to cut the hay in the front yard.

"We laughed at our predicament and started out to change it," adds Father.

The new pastor initiated the formation of several parish organizations. "We started the Women's Club immediately. Anne Wilson was the only person I knew in Charlotte when I came. She organized the first meeting for me. Madeline Warmbold became the first president.

"We formed the Holy Name Society," Father continues, "the most memorable thing about it surely being the famous Chicken Bar-B-Que, which we held

The Charlotte Observer *Religion*

Saturday, Sept. 14, 1957 12-A



FATHER BYRON

New Pastor Will Offer First Mass

Father Paul Byron has been named pastor of Charlotte's newest Catholic church, St. Gabriel's, on Providence Road near the Sharon-Amity intersection.

He will offer the first mass at St. Gabriel's at 8 a.m. Sunday. He was appointed to the parish by the Bishop of Raleigh, the Most Rev. Vincent S. Waters.

The new church is to be blessed and dedicated at a still-to-be-determined date by Bishop Waters.

Once definite parish lines have been drawn, plans for the construction of a school will be drawn, Father Byron said.

Most of the area to be included in the new parish is now within St. Patrick's parish.

Masses are scheduled for St. Gabriel's each Sunday at 8 and 11 a.m.

The new Catholic Church is the sixth to be built in Charlotte, the third in the last three years.

Father Byron, a native of Albany, N. Y., has served in the Diocese of Raleigh since his ordination in 1946. He has served churches in Whiteville, Waynesville, Wake Forest, Raleigh, Asheboro and Durham.



Charlotte Observer Feb. 1, 1959.

in the rain every year, and sold dinners to half of Charlotte. The recipe was said to be secret, but that was because we never really knew how much beer went into the sauce, and how much into the cooks.

"We began the Legion of Mary for parish visitations, and the Altar Society to take care of church linens, etc. Gladys Parker started that and has never finished."

In a beautiful ceremony on November 24, 1957, the church was blessed and consecrated to the service of God by Bishop Waters and named after the Archangel Gabriel.

One of the most pleasing features of the new church was its lovely interior. Father Byron points out with special pride that a Charlotte newspaper article, dated Feb. 1, 1959, elaborated on the beauty of the church furnishings.

"We made the interior of the little church as pretty as we knew how, at that time, before the liturgy reform. Many will remember the wedgewood shaped altar and the lovely canopy in fine wood over it, the bisque Madonna, the hand-carved Joseph, the brown oriental, the candlesticks and font made by Dr. Lyman Potter, the stained glass panels in the plain windows, the Stations of the Cross from Art Chretien in Paris, the Della Robbin over the entrance door."



Father Byron hung red velvet behind the cross and altar for the first Christmas service in 1957.

Nov. 24, 1957

ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH BULLETIN

Rectory tel. EM 6-1708

PARISH MOTTO

We ought to go to Holy Communion as often as we go to Mass.

Sunday Masses.....8:00 and 11:00.
Nursery.....11:00 Mass, Rectory
Evening Services.....Sunday, 7:30 PM
Daily Mass.....7:00, Confessions before (Sat. 9:00)
Thursday, 10:00
Confessions;.....Saturday, 4:30-6:00; 8:00-9:00

1. Offertory last Sunday, \$569.94. Goal: \$700.00 weekly.
2. The Most Reverend Bishop will dedicate our Church this morning at the 11:00 Mass. All are asked to be on time and to remain outside the Church for the dedication, weather permitting.
3. The Catholic Youth Council will have a wiener roast at 6:00 tonight, St. Gabriel's Lodge. All Teen-agers welcome.
4. At evening services tonight, 7:30, we will begin to recite Compline, the official night prayer of the Church. This is for all the parish.
5. Adult Inquiry Class in the Rectory tonight, 8:00.
6. Confraternity School of Religion Tuesday. Grades 1 & 2, 3:30; 3 thru 8, 4:30; High School, 7:30.
7. The Women's Club of St. Gabriel's parish will meet on Wednesday night in the sacristy from 8 to 9:00 PM.
8. Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. Mass will not be at 7:00 AM but at 10:00 AM. Americans have much to be thankful for: our thanks should be first of all to God.
9. Altar Boys Daily 7:00 Joe Crawford; Next Sunday 8:00 Cameron, Connor; 11:00 Jim Crawford, G. Lund. Evening services: same.
10. Men's Choir Rehearsal Friday, 7:00, Rectory.
11. Today is the last day for memberships in the North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association. We should have 100 members from this parish: we have 15. Please do your part, use the envelope in the pew.
12. The Thanksgiving Clothing Drive for the needy overseas, sponsored by the Bishops of the United States, is the opportunity to fulfill a corporal work of mercy, To Clothe the Naked. Bring good usable clothing, shoes, blankets, children's apparel, to the rectory this week. The Holy Name Society will see to the shipping.
13. The Holy Name Society is now formulated, and the men will be received in a Church ceremony early in December. All men of the parish will be contacted, and you are asked to join this one men's parish organization.
14. Donation received this week for the Altar Cards. Many other furnishings of the Church still need donors. Organ fund in particular.
15. The season of Advent, preparation for Christmas, begins next week. Every home should have an Advent wreath. This is a time for Christmas-getting-ready (especially spiritually), not a time for Christmas parties. You cannot control how others keep this season: but you can show a notable example by giving your parties after Christmas (this is the Christmas season) instead of before.
16. The Year of the Good Shepherd . . .

Commenting on the elegance of the new church, Fr. Byron remembers Jack Smith once asked him if everything in the church was imported, "and I realized then that indeed it was.

"Everything was select, except perhaps, the first pump organ which stood in the church sanctuary in the early days. Lacking better talent, I would proceed solemnly to it, during the Hail Holy Queen at the end of Mass, and play it, pumping madly, for the last hymns as loud as it would go, which wasn't much. We sang in that church — we, the people — from the very first Sunday; and that was eight years before the end of Vatican II made it a universal Catholic requirement for public worship."

During the first year, work was performed on the grounds and buildings. "We cut a service road in front of the church, cleared the parking lot to the east of the building and covered it with gravel, leaving one great tree in the middle for beauty. It could not stand the earth moving and died.

"We left a circle in front of the rectory (now the convent) with a cedar tree which the teen-agers filled with lights every Christmas. We cut a road back to the quail hut, and began to turn it into a little parish hall. It still stands, and I don't remember why, except that after we built the school (1960) and the gym (1963) we didn't have any more money or credit."

The "little parish hall" was called "the lodge" and at present the building houses classrooms. But in the early days the lodge was converted by the men of the parish into a hall, used by the Holy Name Society and



FATHER JEAN PAUL BYRON

**First Pastor
1957-1967**

Father Byron is a graduate of St. Bonaventure Seminary in New York and has been a priest of the Raleigh and Charlotte dioceses since his ordination in 1946. He has been a pastor since 1951, when he was appointed to St. Joseph's in Asheboro. He served in eight other parishes before coming to St. Gabriel's in 1957.

Father Byron founded St. Gabriel's parish and was pastor here for ten years before being assigned to the Church of the Holy Child in Jacksonville, N.C.

He has remained in North Carolina and is presently pastor of the Chapel of St. Thomas More in Chapel Hill.

New St. Gabriel's School Now Under Construction

CHARLOTTE — The sixth parochial school for Charlotte's growing Catholic population will be a reality in September, according to the Rev. Paul Byron, Pastor of St. Gabriel's. The school will open with eight grades and Kindergarten, and will be staffed by the Sisters of Mercy of Belmont.

St. Gabriel's, now in its third year, is Charlotte's newest parish. Situated in a spreading residential area, its facilities have expanded gradually. A Kindergarten was

opened in 1958, and the first grade in 1959. With word from Mother Mary Benignus, RSM, that a staff of Sisters could be made available for this fall, a full grammar school passed from the realm of hope and prayer to actuality.

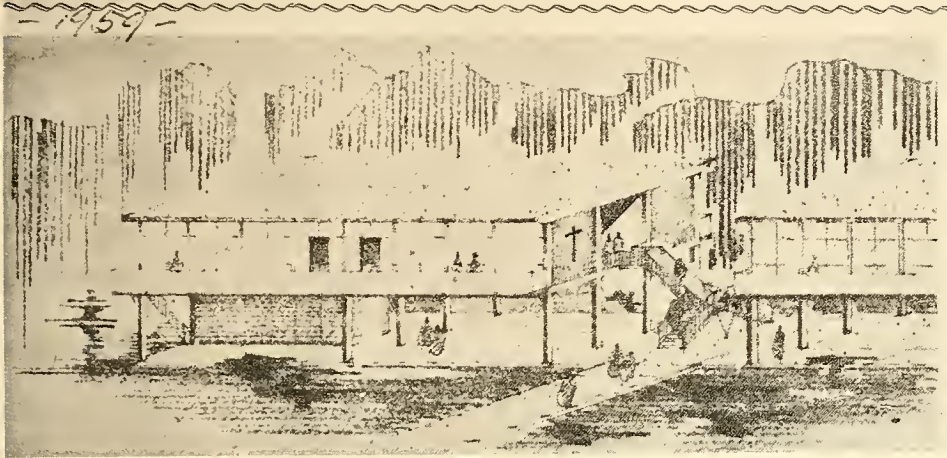
Architect for the school is Friedrich A. Schmitt of Charlotte. General contractor is Wood and Klepacki of Ashboro. Construction will be in prestressed concrete, a modern system of special strength and flexibility designed by Peter J. Verna of Concrete Supply Company, Charlotte. The second story of the school will immediately be

enclosed for use, and the first level left open. When future class rooms are needed, the first level will then be enclosed with curtain walls.

The Sisters of Mercy of Belmont, who, will staff the school are the oldest teaching community in North Carolina. They have served the Diocese of Raleigh for nearly one hundred years, their works including schools, hospitals and an orphanage reaching from Wilmington to Asheville. St. Gabriel's is especially pleased says Father Byron, that its school will now be the newest addition to the long list of devoted undertakings of the Sisters of Mercy in this state.

School construction is now under way, and scheduled completion is set for September first.

Charlotte Observer article 1960. Sketch includes a partial view of a second building that was never built. The architect envisioned this building as a future expansion of the school toward Providence Road.



the Women's Club among others. Beginning in Sept. 1958, kindergarted classes, under the instruction of a lay teacher, met in the lodge. In 1959, a first grade, also taught by a lay teacher was added and the class met in the church sacristy.

Father Byron organized St. Gabriel's and served for 10 years. His assistants were Father Robert De Santis, James Mobbs, Chan Chase, and William Saulnier, then a deacon. In May 1967, Father Byron was transferred to the Church of the Holy Child in Jacksonville, NC. Father Walter J. Sullivan from St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville was appointed as the new pastor of St. Gabriel's.

Father Byron recently reflected on his years at St. Gabriel's. "I put red velvet behind the tabernacle that first Christmas, and thought it a glory. But then, that is what I thought of the place, and its people, in all my ten years there. I still do. It was a glory. To the best of my recollection, the reason was that we laughed a lot, and cared about quality things in worship and all aspects of parish life, and didn't take ourselves too seriously."

Charlotte Grade School To Be Dedicated Today

CHARLOTTE — This community's fifth parochial grade school will be officially dedicated when Bishop Vincent S. Waters, Raleigh Ordinary, blesses St. Gabriel's new school this afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

The dedication climaxes a successful drive by the Providence Road Catholic parish which officially opened three years ago. Up to this September, children of the parish attended St. Patrick's or St. Ann's elementary schools. Kindergarten began two years ago in the church sacristy.

Pastor J. Paul Byron located the new school in a picturesque oak grove on the parish premises. Construction is of pre-stressed concrete panels. At present class-

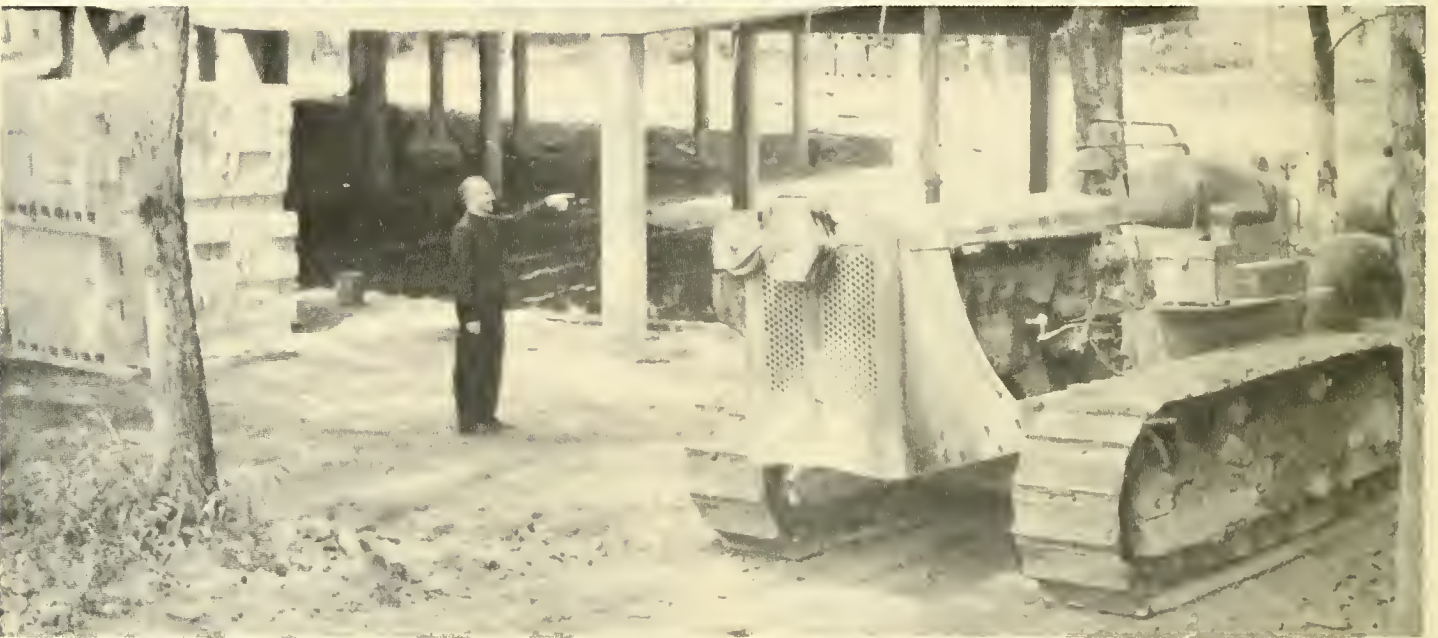
rooms are in use; by setting in concrete wings between the twelve-foot high foundations pillars, additional school space can be made readily available in the future.

Fr. Joseph Byron of Washington, D.C., brother of the pastor, will preach at the dedication services.

Clergy of the city and surrounding towns will take part in the ceremonies, along with a large group of teaching sisters, and parish organizations and members. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in full dress will march.

St. Gabriel's School is under the direction of the Belmont Sisters of Mercy.

St. Gabriel's School was constructed from May to September 1960.



THE SCHOOL

In early 1960, with a promise from the Reverend Mother Benignus, RSM to staff a new St. Gabriel's school with the Sisters of Mercy for the fall term, the Bishop gave permission to build.

In the school dedication booklet, it stated that "St. Gabriel's school is probably the first school ever to have its second level built before its first." The low-lying nature of the land made a one-level school seem out of place. Using prestressed concrete, the architect, Frederick H. Schmidt, came up with the unique solution. Lift the whole building one story off the ground. This turned out to be a stroke of genius. The small modular school had built-in room for expansion. By enclosing the lower level, the classroom area could easily be doubled. The heating system and piping connections were already included, not only for the completion of the lower area, but also for the addition of a second building of the same proportions in front of the platform entrance — should the need arise.

It was late spring in 1960, the school just under construction, when Mother Benignus selected Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, RSM to be the first principal of St. Gabriel's School. Sister Jeanne Marie tells her story:

"I can vividly remember the day my Superior told me that our Congregation was going to staff St. Gabriel's school which would open in the fall of 1960. I had often driven past the little "cracker box" church on Providence Road and admired the beautiful trees and the amount of property surrounding the church.

"What did cause me to gasp was the announcement that I was principal. At the time, I was principal of Sacred Heart Campus school. We had moved into a new building two years earlier and I was completely committed to developing that school. Having received this news, however, I set about accepting the fact that this must be where the Lord wanted me to go next."

Gladys Parker remembers that Father Bryon, in anticipation of the arriving nuns, "stepped out of the rectory and, leaving furniture behind, it became the convent." He walked up to the frame house behind the church, recently vacated by the Mission Helpers, entered and it became the rectory.

Sister Jeanne Marie continues, "One of the joys I discovered was that the pastor, Father Paul Byron, had many of the same ideas on the role of a school within the parish. Both of us believed strongly in the witness value of a school, which aimed toward quality education, and included religious education classes and experiences, involvement with liturgical celebrations, and the inclusion of music, art, and athletics in our curriculum. More than that, we wanted St. Gabriel's to be a happy place, but yet a school where there was the discipline necessary for learning.

"The first time I went to St. Gabriel's to view my new home I saw nothing but a huge hole in the place pointed out to me to be the site of the school. It was then August! Two weeks later there was more to be seen, but I knew that school could not open there in September. I was pondering on what we would do, but I had not reckoned with the ingenuity of the pastor.

"Charlotte Country Day School had just vacated their original school site and moved to the location where they are now. We "borrowed" the building from them. No ivy covered walls for us. We went into quonsets set around a sort of court. The September heat beat fiercely on the corrugated iron roofs, but we all made a pact — students and faculty — that we would not complain . . . and the children kept to that.

"What could have been an uncomfortable situation became an adventure, and the parents helped us to do this with their cooperation. Three weeks later we were told we could move into the new school, even though there were a few things to be done. The "few things" included no bathrooms hooked up, painting to be done, and radiators to be put in and tested.

"The day we moved was a Saturday, and the men and high school boys in the parish turned out in numbers. Some drove trucks, station wagons — all loaded with desks and chairs (everyone had to take all books home that week-end). The men handed up the chairs and desks to others standing on the balcony. In an amazing short time the four classrooms were filled with the desks and chairs, and we went over to decorate our classrooms. We wanted it all to look beautiful when the students saw their new school for the first time."



The school opened with 150 students in grades K-8. The staff consisted of three sisters, Sister Jeanne Marie, Sister Helene Torres, and Sister Jane Francis Galligan (Sister Helen was not quite five feet tall and it was said the school had two and a half sisters), and two lay teachers, Mrs. Elvira Friend and Mrs. Jane Powell. Obviously, with the limited staff they taught double grades.

"One of the assets we teachers brought to St. Gabriel's was a sense of humor and an appreciation for the ridiculous. It was a good thing we had both attributes. The parking lot was a sea of mud; there were no sidewalks leading up to the school, only planks, and we had more than our share of rain. Over the next few weeks we had to send pupils home who had fallen in the mud or worse, had gotten stuck in it!

"We solved the bathroom problem by stationing 7th and 8th grade boys along the planks to guide the little ones and to lift them over mud holes as they made their way up to the rectory and the sacristy to use the lavatory facilities there. People were not talking about computers much then, but those children were programmed!

"Education went on, regardless of the plumber banging on pipes, the radiator man lying on the floor of a classroom adjusting fittings, painters on ladders doing trim. Everyone at the school received an education — even the workmen! The students worked, played, ate lunch, laughed and sang in the school. There was no place else they could go."

Finally, November 6, 1960, Bishop Waters arrived from Raleigh and escorted by priests, parents, sisters, students, the school was blessed and dedicated. We were officially on our way.

The parish and school continued to grow by leaps and bounds. In 1962, the lower level of the school was completed providing 4 more classrooms and a library in the foyer. As more space became available and

A parishioner bronzed the shoe box used for the collection at the first mass and presented it to Father Byron at St. Gabriel's 5th Anniversary celebration.



enrollment increased, the staff was enlarged and the grades were separated and moved to individual classrooms.

A two story building adjacent to the quail huts housing a cafeteria and gymnasium was constructed in 1963. In 1966, partitions were erected in one section of the cafeteria to provide two more classrooms and the lodge was converted into two additional classrooms and a library. By this time, student enrollment had increased to 350 students and the parish roster had grown to 500 families.

As is inevitable in any growing parish, changes occurred. In September 1966, Sister Jeanne Marie was replaced by Sister Mary Timothy and given a new assignment as Director of Vocation for the Sisters of Mercy. She still has fond memories of St. Gabriel's.

"Some have asked me what I remember most about St. Gabriel's. It is difficult to single out one thing. What I do remember is that we Sisters felt that we belonged to the entire parish. We taught in the high school CCD program, one of us directed the elementary program for several years. Long before people were talking about "community" I felt that we had it at St. Gabriel's — for anyone who wanted to belong to it. There was a feeling of belonging, of meeting friends at Mass. We celebrated and suffered together. I do not mean to give the impression that everything was perfect — far from that! But to this day I look back on my six years at St. Gabriel's as years of growth for me. I was fortunate in experiencing a parish where the Sisters involved themselves, and it made a difference to the parish."



Can you identify anyone in these 1964 class photographs?

From 1966 to 1970 the school was served by three different principals. Sister Mary Timothy was principal from 1966-1968, the first of her two assignments to St. Gabriel's. (Also 1973-1979) Sr. Timothy recalls in 1967 "a room behind the Sisters garage was decorated and furnished with donated furnishings to provide a faculty lounge. This was only used for one year as the arrangement proved to be impractical because of inconvenient location."

Sister Maureen Dees replaced Sr. Timothy as principal for the 1968-1969 school year and, although principal for only a year, introduced the Charles Shedd School for children suffering from dyslexia. This program, offered each day, was designed for parents of children in the program to tutor children other than their own.

The 1969-70 school year was Sister Josephine Maria's first year of a five year stint as principal of St. Gabriel's School. It was also the year when Judge James B. McMillan ordered total school desegregation and the Charlotte private and parochial schools received hundreds of calls and applications for admission.

Sister Josephine Maria remembers the time well. "The year 1969-70 was the year the decision was made in Charlotte to bus students. We were swamped with phone calls and some of our parents manned the phones so that the secretary and I would be able to carry on the educational work of the school. Our Education Board met as soon as possible. The decision was made not to take any new students until the following year. At this same meeting the Board also set priorities for students entering St. Gabriel's School for the year 1970-71 year."

Father Sullivan was pastor of St. Gabriel's for three years and Father Richard Holliman served as his assistant. On May 12, 1970 he was replaced by Father Michael Francis O'Keefe.



The school principal, Sister Mary Timothy, joins in the fun at a May, 1967 school picnic.

Saint Gabriel's School Principals



*Sister Jeanne Marie
1960-1966*



*Sister Mary Timothy
1966-1968
1973-1979*



*Sister Maureen Dees
1968-1969*



*Sister Josephine Maria
1969-1973*



*Mrs. Mary Williams
1979-1982*



FATHER WALTER J. SULLIVAN

Second Pastor
1967-1970

Father Walter J. Sullivan, a graduate of Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., was ordained in 1948 and assigned to the Diocese of Raleigh.

Before coming to St. Gabriel's parish on June 7, 1967, Father Sullivan was pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville, N.C. He also served as pastor of four other North Carolina parishes and was Spiritual Director at Notre Dame School in Greensboro from 1955-1957.



MONSIGNOR MICHAEL J. O'KEEFE

Third Pastor
1970-1975

Monsignor O'Keefe is a native of Bethlehem, Pa. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology from Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md., and was ordained there in 1945.

Prior to his coming to St. Gabriel's in May of 1970, Monsignor had served at several other parishes around North Carolina. As pastor here he successfully directed the needed expansion of parish facilities. In 1975, the Monsignor was assigned to St. Dorothy's in Lincolnton where he again directed a building program — this time a new 350-seat church.

Among Monsignor O'Keefe's many priestly duties has been that of Administrator of Charlotte Catholic High School. He is now pastor of St. Peter's in Charlotte.



Monsignor O'Keefe celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination to the Priesthood at St. Gabriel's in October 1970, just before expansion plans began.

THE EXPANSION

Father O'Keefe immediately realized his new parish had outgrown its church building and wisely foresaw the explosive growth of southeast Charlotte. John Dixon, a distinguished and original member of St. Gabriel's parish, reported in a parish publication entitled "The New Era" that "Father O'Keefe's first important task was to establish a firm financial basis for the parish. This objective was achieved and on June 6, 1971, plans for a major renovation and addition to the church were announced, with a fund raising goal of \$170,000.00." A building committee was established and Father O'Keefe went to the parish with a letter stating the problem and the plan.

"In a span of fourteen years, St. Gabriel's Church has become the largest parish in Charlotte and surrounding areas. It is with pride that we can also say that St. Gabriel's represents the largest Catholic parish in the state of North Carolina. It is wonderful to be No. 1!

"But — bigness brings problems. It is sad to see our brethren have to stand against walls and be subjected to inclement weather outside the walls while Mass is being said. Why? Because our facilities were built to accommodate 250 and TODAY we need room for 500 parishioners."



Bishop Begley dedicated and blessed the expanded St. Gabriel's Church in 1973.

He went on to explain that the Bishop would approve the plan if it would not cause further debt. Father O'Keefe's plan was to raise the \$170,000.00 for the church expansion by asking each family to give \$250.00. The building committee devised a number of ways families could give without working an undue hardship on anyone. The plan was accepted and the Bishop gave his okay to build.

In November 1971 Charlotte was named as the see city for a new Roman Catholic Diocese encompass-

ing the western half of the state. The Rev. Michael J. Begley, formerly of Charlotte, was designated Bishop-Elect by Pope Paul VI. On January 28, 1973, Bishop Begley broke ground for the St. Gabriel's Church expansion.

John Dixon's "The New Era" article continues, "The construction work started in March 1973, by Wheeler R. Marret Company, general contractor for the project. J.A. Malcom, of Hinningson, Durham, and Richardson was the architect. The new church will



Bishop Begley walks down Providence Road in front of the church during the dedication ceremony. A fountain was installed in the muddy foreground area.

The Blessing and Dedication Ceremonies included a Concelebrated Mass.

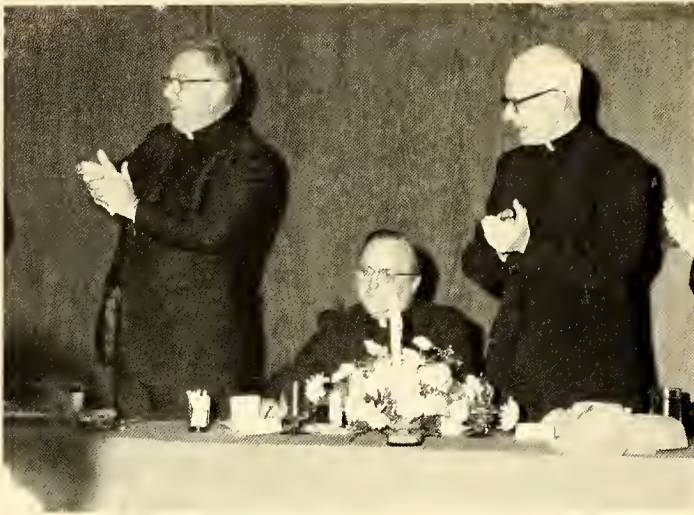


seat 600 people, 350 more than the original church. The floor plan is in the form of a cross with the altar located at the center. There is a new sacristy, new confessionals, and a cry room seating 35 people. The front of the church has a polished granite block wall enhanced by a reflecting pool. Through the particular generosity of many of our parishioners who have contributed numerous memorials, the altar, crucifix, stations of the cross, baptismal font, stained glass

windows, and altar items add great beauty and dignity to the new church."

At this time, there were 690 families on the church roster and each one remembers going to Mass in the cafeteria during the time of the new church construction. The stage in the cafeteria was built then to accommodate the temporary altar.





Monsignor O'Keefe receives a round of applause at the Testimonial Banquet held at the Sheraton Inn. Bishop Begley is standing at left.

TO THE PRESENT

Sister Mary Timothy returned as principal of the school in 1973 and served for six school years until June 1979. Her eight years total as principal is the longest, and she is the only individual who worked with all of St. Gabriel's pastors. She could laugh and love but also demand the respect and maintain the discipline needed to run a top educational system. St. Gabriel's parish was very fortunate to have a person of her caliber lead the school for eight full years.

In June 1975, Bishop Begley named Msg. Hugh Dolan pastor of St. Gabriel's to replace Father O'Keefe. During his four years as pastor, Msg. Dolan's sparkle and wit were constant reminders of his knowledge of history and people.

His major accomplishments include a complete renovation of the cafeteria and shoring up of the gymnasium floor with steel supports to increase the allowable weight limit of the gym. The gymnasium was thus transformed from a "minimum" use facility, to one in which major functions are now held.

Msg. Dolan also introduced the "Master Plan" for St. Gabriel's in 1977. The parish had grown to well over 1000 families and the school could still only accommodate approximately 350 students, the same

as in 1962, and the waiting list of the parish children had grown to almost that number again.

With both the church and the school literally bursting at the seams, the "Master Plan" contained various alternatives for adding to the parish "plant" in stages which included a new church, an addition to the school, and/or multi-use facilities. At present, the "Master Plan" is still in the process of being acted upon having been delayed for various reasons, one being the possible establishment of a new parish in southeast Charlotte.



St. Gabriel's parishioners enjoy themselves at the Testimonial Banquet.



Sister Mary Timothy and Father John McSweeney participates in the 1975 May Procession.

Three priests served as assistants under Monsignor Dolan — Father John McSweeney, Father Frank O'Rourke, and Father Christian Hearing. When Monsignor Dolan left St. Gabriel's in July 1979 to return to Greensboro, N.C., Father Hearing served as administrator until the new pastor, Father Thomas R. Walsh, arrived November 1979.

The late 70's were marked by many changes at St. Gabriel's. Sister Mary Timothy, after six straight years as principal, left St. Gabriel's in 1979 to perform pastoral care work at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, thus fulfilling a deep-rooted desire and broadening her own professional background.

Her replacement, Mrs. Mary Williams had the distinction of being the first lay principal of St. Gabriel's school. She served the school community with love, dedication and direction for three years. Following her resignation in June 1982, Sister Patricia Durbon assumed the position.

This Silver Anniversary Year of St. Gabriel's parish coincides with Father Walsh's third year as pastor, with assistance, first, from Father John Byers, and now, Father Myles Quail.

Commenting on his three years in Charlotte, Father Walsh mentions that on assuming his assignment he was immediately struck by the warmth and welcome given him by the parishioners. "I think St. Gabriel's had endured a period of rapid change, both in personnel and growth," explains Father.

"The parishioners were longing for some stability and direction and I believe they took my appointment as an encouraging sign in this direction. Hence, the warm welcome," he chuckles.

"After three years, I still feel that warmth, although sometimes, because after all we are only human, there's been pain and change to overcome on the road toward growth. The development of an active parish council as a meeting place to work out our



MONSIGNOR HUGH A. DOLAN

Fourth Pastor
1975-1979

Monsignor Dolan was born in County Craven, Ireland, on November 3, 1906. He came to the United States in 1928 to study for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary and University, and was ordained June 8, 1934.

In September of 1935 Monsignor Dolan was assigned to St. Theresa's parish in Wilson, N.C., and in the years following became pastor of other North Carolina parishes. In 1955 he directed the building program at St. Pius X in Greensboro. When St. Pius X was established as a parish in 1960, Monsignor was named pastor. He remained there until June of 1975 when he was named pastor of St. Gabriel's. He served here four years before returning to Greensboro for retirement.

After an extended illness, Monsignor Dolan died in September, 1981.



Father Christian Hearing and Monsignor Hugh Dolan receive a standing ovation at Monsignor's farewell ceremony held in St. Gabriel's Church July 1979.

future is certainly a very positive accomplishment for the parish . . . and, incidently, one of which I am most proud.

"St. Gabriel's has many assets," he continues, "but if I had to zero in on any one, I would have to say it is the people. We have so many talented people in this parish.

"Bringing these people together, tapping that talent and putting it to use for the good of the church community is, of course, one of the problems — and challenges for a pastor."

Adele Azar, director of religious education at St. Gabriel's puts it another way. "The parish is the principle means for people to achieve spiritual nourishment and growth. There are hungry people out there, spiritually and emotionally, who are longing for direction and willing to give of themselves."

Another of the more obvious challenges facing St. Gabriel's at the present time is the need for facilities that will adequately meet the different needs of a parish of 1400 families, still the largest in the state of North Carolina.

"Space — specifically, the competition for the little space we do have, is unbelievable," exclaims Father Walsh. "Perhaps one of the minor miracles of the past year is that we were able to accomplish as much as we did — a school, large CCD program, adult education, a parish retreat, childrens' liturgy, sports program, various social and club activities and most importantly, worship, in space designed to accommodate half our numbers."

Finally one of the largest and most recent accomplishments of the parish has been the study of and subsequent removal of potentially harmful asbestos insulation from the ceilings of the school, cafeteria and gymnasium. This project, undertaken with a strong consideration of our moral responsibilities to the parishioners who use these buildings, was successfully completed in the summer of 1982.



Monsignor Dolan speaks with the new school principal, Mary Williams, in the receiving line following the farewell ceremony.



FATHER JOHN J. McSWEENEY

Father McSweeney attended Syracuse University in New York, and earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy at Holy Apostles College in Cromwell, Connecticut, in 1970. After coming to Charlotte, Father served at St. Gabriel's as assistant pastor from September of 1974 until January of 1976.

Father McSweeney occupies a special place in the diocese hierarchy — he was the first priest to have been ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte. His ordination took place at St. Gabriel's in September of 1974, where, in June of that same year, he had been ordained to the diaconate.

On leaving St. Gabriel's, Father became Administrator of Charlotte Catholic High School; later, Administrator of Our Lady of the Hills Camp in Hendersonville. Father McSweeney was also pastor of St. John the Evangelist parish in Waynesville, and pastor at Queen of the Apostles parish in Belmont. He is presently Vice-Chancellor of the Charlotte diocese and Director of Planning and Development. Add to this his newest hat — Diocesan Vocation Director — and you know that Father McSweeney is a man of many talents.



FATHER RICHARD N. HANSON

Father Richard N. Hanson, son of Norris and Leone Hanson, was the first parishioner from St. Gabriel's to be ordained to the priesthood. The ordination took place on June 1, 1975 at St. Patrick's Cathedral and was performed by Bishop Begley.

Father Hanson came to Charlotte from Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1960. He attended Charlotte Catholic High School, and Kings College. He graduated from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee in the spring of 1975. As a deacon he worked with Monsignor Dolan in Greensboro and Monsignor Allen in Charlotte.

Father Hanson's first assignment was an associate pastor of St. Leo's in Winston-Salem. He also served at Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro and St. Eugene's in Asheville. He was formerly pastor of St. Joan of Arc, Asheville, and is presently pastor at Queen of Apostles in Belmont.



JOHN J. DOYLE

Intern Deacon

Mr. Doyle moved to Charlotte in 1954 and is an original member of St. Gabriel's parish. He entered the Charlotte Diocese Diaconate Program in 1980 and is scheduled to be ordained in May, 1983. He will be St. Gabriel's first lay deacon.



FATHER THOMAS R. WALSH

Fifth Pastor
1979—

Father Walsh is originally from Allegany, N.Y., and began his pre-seminary studies at St. Bonaventure's there. He subsequently transferred to Mount St. Mary's in Maryland, and was ordained in Greensboro in 1953. He assumed his first pastorate in Wadesboro, in 1957.

Father Walsh has served in both the Eastern and Western sections of North Carolina, coming to St. Gabriel's in 1979 after three years in Hendersonville.

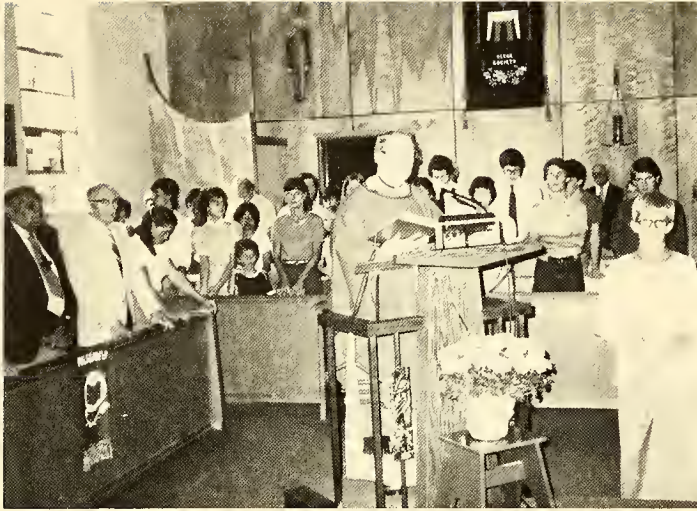


FATHER MYLES E. QUAIL

Assistant Pastor
1981—

Father Quail was born and raised in Clinton, Mass. He graduated from Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Conn. in June 1977 with a B.A. in philosophy. He then earned a Pastoral degree in theology from Sacred Heart School in Hales Corners, Wis., in 1980, before coming to St. Vincent's in Charlotte.

Father Quail was assigned to St. Gabriel's after seven months at St. Vincent's, first as a deacon, and then as a priest. He was ordained in February of 1981.



"St. Gabriel's parishioners will, I hope, become more and more aware of what the Christian life really means. We are just beginning to probe that newness in Christ's life that comes to us through Baptism — that knowledge that everyday Jesus is working in our lives.

"Any spiritual vision of St. Gabriel's," she adds emphatically "should see us growing, caring and sharing our journey to God. Simply put, we will be called to minister to each other in the full context of a Christian community."

THE FUTURE

Infused with renewed enthusiasm, St. Gabriel's parish approaches the future with multiple visions of what we can and must become.

Looking toward spiritual growth, Adele Azar believes that the "old Catholic" approach to our faith will strike us as incomplete.



Eucharistic ministers prepare to distribute communion for a visiting priest.



Father Thomas Walsh offers mass during the Silver Jubilee year. Twenty-fifth Anniversary Banners made by the Altar Society and the Legion of Mary hang in the background.

Father Walsh also sees us building a community where we act and interact and help each other. His vision calls for a parish where people can meet with the Lord minus the stresses imposed by a lack of facilities.

To this end, Father Walsh has directed a re-evaluation of the previous "Master Plan." In a letter to the parish, he reported, "An ad hoc committee of the parish council has responded to the call of the parish leadership to assess the facilities and needs of St. Gabriel's over the foreseeable future and to plan for their fulfillment."

Peter Keber, present chairman of the parish council approaches the question of our future by examining the roll of the parish in the years to come. "For most



Altar boys, ushers, and lector assist Fr. Myles Quail during mass. Fr. Myles works with the youth of the parish and often has the young people sit around the altar for the sermon.

Catholics," he begins, "the parish is where the mission of Christ continues. So as the post-Vatican II Church evolves, Saint Gabriel's will be looked to more and more, as the spiritual and social center of the lives of its families. We must be prepared to share

the mission of Christ, as families as well as individuals, and to develop and support the structure necessary to its life as a community of God."

Mr. Keber continues, "St. Gabriel's has been blessed over the past five years with tremendous growth in the number of its communicants. We rejoice in this sign of the Lord's favor, but must respond as a





St. Gabriel's School (top photo)
Church Office (foreground)
Cafeteria and Gymnasium (rear)

community to the demands such growth brings. We must be prepared to work together to provide adequate and inviting facilities for the community's liturgical, social and educational gatherings.

"In short, St. Gabriel's must continue its growth as a community that embodies the life and message of Jesus. It must continue to develop as a community offering an environment in which faith can expand and flourish. And it must offer the possibility of fostering caring relationships, prayerful and critical reflection and purposeful action leading to fuller lives in the Lord for its members and the world."



Rectory



Convent

The next 25 years are just beginning. They are open pages yet to be written. We stand on tiptoes to see how God is going to bless St. Gabriel's in the second twenty-five years.

PARISH COUNCIL

Vatican II recommended the formation of Parish Councils. It was an idea whose time had come and St. Gabriel's was quick to form its own council, a council that offers its members an opportunity to share and participate in discussions and to make contributions to the final decisions of the parish.



The Parish Council meets once a month in the cafeteria.



The Parish Council holds monthly meetings. At these meetings reports are submitted on the many activities occurring at St. Gabriel's; plans for future events are discussed and decided upon and commission representatives report on their organizations.

The Parish Council has become a vital part of St. Gabriel's and has given the laity a greater voice in the direction of the parish.

St. Gabriel's Parish Council is made up of 16 elected members serving a two-year term, and 9 ex-officio members. From the ranks of the elected members, a chairman, vice chairman, secretary and vicariate are chosen to serve 1-year terms. The 9 ex-officio members include the parish priest, school principal and representatives of the various parish organizations.

Six commission representatives are appointed by the chairman of the Parish Council with the approval of the Council. The commissions represented are Liturgical, Education, Family Life, Communication, Administration and Finance.



FAITH DEVELOPMENT CENTER



The Youth Group make an anniversary banner for the church.

FDC is a continuation of CCD established at St. Gabriel's Church. FDC stands for Faith Development Center and it is the goal of the center to build a faith community at St. Gabriel's parish. Faith is an ongoing process; therefore, the goal of the center is to offer education and spirituality to adults and teens as well as children.

Because faith is a continuing process and its growth does not diminish until we breathe our last, the FDC endeavors to touch all adult parishioners with the gospel message. During the 1981-82 year Parish Unity Night offered nine subjects. Over 300 people, parents and children, attended.

St. Gabriel's School and FDC work closely together to provide the sacramental preparation necessary for adults and children. St. Gabriel's initiated a two-year program in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. Over 90 young people are being offered different experiences as well as theological update for this step. Parents of First Communion children at St. Gabriel's School and Sunday School attended five home sessions with their children to learn more deeply the beauty of the Eucharist.



Mary Alice Flanagan explains the rules of a game to the Youth Group



Father Walsh (left) with Father Francis McCartin at the P.U.N. Silver Jubilee Kickoff Dinner. Father McCartin conducted the St. Gabriel's Parish Family Retreat held during Lent.

Some of the activities of the Youth Group include a lock-in, skating parties, cook-outs, packing Christmas baskets, P.U.N., helping with the Men's Club Breakfast, and working with the Women's Club on the Halloween Party for retarded citizens: all these events provide opportunities for youth to serve others.



FDC director Adele Azar leads a youth folk group during the Children's Liturgy Celebration of the 25th Anniversary.

Adults in the parish who wished took advantage of Father Vincent Dwyer's spirituality program. These adults met for 18 weeks in the gymnasium, attesting that they had been touched spiritually in a new way.

The parish celebrated a children's Mass on alternate Sundays in the cafeteria. Children from both St. Gabriel's School and Sunday School children helped to make this worship meaningful.

An important part of FDC is the Youth Group. The goal of this program is to see that our young parishioners have an opportunity to experience fun and fulfillment in community, fellowship, prayer, and in those areas where their participation and leadership is needed and appreciated.



Father Myles gives the homily at Children's Liturgy.

ST. VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY



The Society's Executive Committee meets each month in the cry-room of the church.

In keeping with Christ's directive to us to "love one another" it was fitting that one of the first organizations to be formed at St. Gabriel's was the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Organized in 1957 during the pastorate of Father Byron, the Society has worked steadfastly to provide aid to truly needy members of the parish and community.

In 1971, under the direction of Monsignor O'Keefe, the Christmas Basket program was begun with 4 baskets given to needy members of the parish. The contents of the baskets were obtained through contributions made at the Thanksgiving Mass. This, the most visual function of the society, continued and the society flourished under Monsignor Dolan. Wishing to expand the program, the Society joined forces with Catholic Social Services and the congregation of the Stowe Memorial Baptist Church in Pineville, to help screen applicants and distribute the baskets to truly needy families. As a result of these efforts, in 1981 the Society was able to distribute baskets to 100 families.

Today the society consists of a 4-member executive committee along with 40 to 50 members who aid the society in its projects.

Past presidents of the Society include Ted Kocak, Bill Morris, Dick Beardal and Don Ferri.

The St. Vincent De Paul Society has grown tremendously during its 25 years at St. Gabriel's and its accomplishments are many and varied. In addition to the Christmas Basket program, the society's other programs include: support of the Crisis Assistance Ministry with a monthly donation and a yearly contribution of \$500, monthly support of Catholic Social Services through financial and personal aid to individuals; Share Sunday — one Sunday a month donations of non-perishable food items are collected from the parish and donated to Catholic Social Services Food Closet.

Over a three year period the Society has also sponsored a Laotian and Viet Nameese refugee family. This support includes rebuilding a home, financial aid, employment (secured through the efforts of Tony Lopez) and personal support.

Thanks to the energetic efforts of this dedicated Society, much has been accomplished these last 25 years and through the grace of God and continued dedication of the Society and the parish, these works will continue and multiply.

ALTAR SOCIETY

ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH 2910 PROVIDENCE ROAD CHARLOTTE, N.C.

ALTAR SOCIETY

WEEKLY DUTIES

1. Dust Altar and appurtenances of sanctuary.
2. Dust pews of Church.
3. Replace burned vigil lights, first removing metal plate in bottom of glass.
4. Change altar lines when soiled; take home soiled linens for washing. (Only a very light starch is used on altar linens -- none on hand linens.)
5. Tidy sacristy, giving particular attention to vestment drawers, cupboards, sticky cruets, etc.
6. Sweep or vacuum rugs of sanctuary.
7. Wash and polish sacred vessels when necessary. (Communion paten is not a sacred vessel, usually needs polishing weekly.)
8. Clean Holy Water fonts when necessary. (When the holy water is dirty, it may be disposed of by pouring into the ground.)
9. Check windows in vestibule doors of Church.
10. Check the Church in mid-week for general tidiness. Rearrange flowers, removing dead blooms.
11. In general, do anything necessary to preserve and enhance the dignity and decorum of the house of God.

O Lord, I have loved
The beauty of Thy house,
and the Place
Where Thy Glory dwelleth.

Psalm XXV

The first official instructions given the Altar Society by Father Byron.

During the first year of St. Gabriel's existence as a parish the duties of the Altar Society were performed by Nan Bondurant, with help from future members of the Society. Then, on Sept. 15, 1958, the first official meeting of St. Gabriel's Altar Society took place. Gladys Parker was elected president, and for the last 25 years Gladys has been an integral part of the Society. There were 22 members at the first meeting and most of them had never done altar work before. They learned quickly however, and were soon laundering linens, removing wax from the vigil light stand, washing and polishing the sacred vessels. Father Byron worked with the original members and the church and altar were always beautifully and tastefully decorated.

Through the years, the Society's primary objective has been the same — to do whatever is necessary to preserve and enhance the dignity and decorum of the House of God.

In addition to the specific duties outlined by Father Byron, the Society has also sponsored many fund raising events to help defray the costs of altar needs, especially flowers, candles and wine. These events range from spaghetti suppers, bake sales, candy sales, and raffles. The Altar Society was honored to be able to donate a stained glass window to the church.

The energetic women of the Altar Society have contributed greatly to the beauty of St. Gabriels.



The current members of the Altar Society. Original president, Gladys Parker, is third from left.

Devoted Altar Society members perform their weekly tasks.



HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

One of the many functions of the Home-School Association is to host the annual Teacher Luncheon.



St. Gabriel's Home School Association was founded in 1960, the school's first year. At that time Father Byron was pastor and Sister Jeanne Marie was principal of the school.

The Home School Association's major objectives are to help parents and teachers acquire a better appreciation of the ideals of Catholic education; to promote a clearer understanding of the mutual educational responsibilities of parents and teachers; and to encourage home and school to a greater degree of co-operation in discharging their responsibilities.

The newly formed association began by instituting grade mothers, sponsoring book fairs, assisting with the school's talent show and holding meetings of special interest to both parents and teachers.

In 1978, during the presidency of Hugh and Mary Lou Enright, the first "County Fair" was held. This event, along with family bingo nights, Halloween candy sales and paper drives, has enabled the Association to raise over \$35,000 in the last 5 years. These monies have been used to purchase everything from soccer balls to library and science equipment, from film projectors to playground equipment.

Members have also contributed by donating their time to such projects as painting classrooms, repairing and installing playground equipment and beautifying the school grounds.

The Home School Association also sponsors the cultural arts festival, teacher luncheons and develops learning centers.

This Association is an excellent example of how much can be accomplished through dedication, hard work and co-operation.



The Home-School Association's Country Fair is held in the spring of each year. It is their biggest fund raiser.

LEGION OF MARY



Legion of Mary officers.

The Legion of Mary is a worldwide association of Catholics sanctioned by the Church, and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate tries to bring souls to Christ. The legion had its beginning in Ireland in 1921 and has been in effect at St. Gabriel's since 1957. It is the only Praesidium in Charlotte. Each Praesidium is named after a title of Our Blessed Lady — St. Gabriel's being "Our Lady of the Annunciation."

The first spiritual director of the Legion at St. Gabriel's was Father Byron, and in the ensuing 25 years each pastor has held this position. Anne Wilson was the Legion's first president.

Two of the original members of the Legion, Martha Fuhrer and Leone Hanson, deserve special recognition because they have devoted 25 years of service to the Legion.

The duties of the legionnaires are visiting the sick and infirm in homes and hospitals; welcoming new parishioners; providing spiritual and social welfare deemed necessary by the spiritual director; and stimulating devotion at the Mass and rosary.

Today the works continue with added duties of delivering hot lunches, working with birth choice, visiting nursing homes and providing transportation when needed.

These devoted women have given joy, compassion and a greater understanding of Mary's love to everyone they've touched. May the next 25 years be as blessed.

The statue of Mary is present at all Legion of Mary meetings.



WOMEN'S CLUB

ST. GABRIEL'S WOMAN'S CLUB
September Bulletin

Many thanks to all who made our first women's Club meeting such a success. A most congenial group of 56 women gathered at Sharonview for coffee, cards and a luncheon-meeting. It was so good to see so many of our old members again and to welcome our new members.

Our Bazaar activities shift into high gear. Bazaar date is set for Nov. 19th. To mus. concentrate our efforts now, so please help out wherever or however you can. Don't you attend our workshops and bring new items and ideas with you.

WORKSHOPS FOR SEPT.

Sept. 14 Wed. Madonna Statues at the home of Mrs. Martin Kehoe (Irene) 10 a.m.

Sept. 19 Mon. Candle Workshop at the home of Mrs. Peter Caragher 319 Jondrwood Dr 10 a.m. Please bring old candles and items to decorate candles.

Sept. 28 Wed. Miscellaneous Workshop at the home of Mrs. Thomas D'Arcy (Marie) 4818 Gaynor Rd. 10 a.m.

Our Parcel Post booth will be one of our new additions to the bazaar this year. With relatives and friends scattered across our country and even foreign countries we thought it would be interesting to ask them to send a dollar gift item, typical of their area, to the St. Gabriel's Women's Club St. Gabriel's Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Charlotte, N. C. Know anyone in Nome, Alaska?

Be sure to save your white elephants for the bazaar Doris Raddan reminds us.

Our next women's Club meeting will be a combination October-November meeting. This will be an evening meeting. It will be held in the Social Center on Wed., Oct. 26th at 8:00. A most interesting program will be presented. Make plans now to take a friend along.

BOARD MEETING THURS. OCT. 20 AT THE HOME OF MRS. ALLEN A. OLSON 4727 GAYNOR

A Nursery Exchange has been initiated due to lack of space. We recommend that all mothers with pre-school children make arrangements with another family in the neighborhood. In this way each family can attend Mass together while the other family tends the pre-school children. If you are new or need help in making arrangements contact Mrs. Carol Lackey (Martha) 366-6429.

✓ We have 26 women signed up to play golf. Tentative plans have been made to play at Cedarwood on Wednesdays. Please contact Peggy Fontaine 366-7134 if you wish to join us.

✓ A bowling group has been formed. You must sign up now to play as a regular. If you wish you may sign up as a substitute. Please call Cathy Boughton 366-7129 MON. Arrangements have been made to bowl at Park Lanes on Tues. 9:30 instruction available at no extra cost.

✓ Couples evening bridge group will meet Fri. Sept. 30th in our Social Center. Call Ginny Olson 366-7903 for reservations.

SEE YOU AT THE MEMBERSHIP TEA

The women of the newly formed St. Gabriel's parish wasted no time in organizing the Women's Club. Their first meeting was in the fall of 1957 and Madeline Warmbold was elected the first president.

Once formed, the members set to work. Their first project was to furnish the rectory, where the entire supply of furniture consisted of one mattress and one chair. In a relatively short time, with furniture gifts from parishioners, the rectory was fully equipped. At that time there were 175 families in the parish.

In the beginning, the Women's Club had weekly coffees at the homes of members. The hostesses supplied the refreshments and donations were collected to help fund the projects of the club. The women also sponsored a formal dance, fashion show and bridge luncheons. These luncheons are fondly remembered by everyone who attended. The women also held an annual bazaar. All the monies raised from these activities were used for projects for the church and school.

In 1972-73 the club's efforts were concentrated on raising funds for a new church organ. In 1974 the women helped to pay for carpeting for the new church.

The Women's Club has also sponsored pot luck suppers, dances, attic and bake sales. It has been responsible for many of the receptions held at St. Gabriel's these past 25 years. The women of St. Gabriel's have always given of their time and efforts generously and graciously.

This Women's Club Bulletin will give you an idea of the wide range of their activities.



Women's Club "Jolly Cookie Packers."



Members attend 1981 slimnastics class.

MEN'S CLUB

Early in December 1957 the men of St. Gabriel's organized the Holy Name Society under the leadership of its first president, George Lund. The original purpose of the Society was to foster regular reception of Holy Communion by the men of the parish at a time when rules for the Eucharistic fast were more stringent than now.

In July of 1958 the men converted the quail hut (next to the present gymnasium) into a meeting hall which was called "the lodge." Both the Holy Name Society and the Women's Club held their meetings there. The men also sponsored Christmas parties and an annual Chicken Barbecue.

Then, when fasting laws became more relaxed, the Society concentrated on providing a way for men of the parish to become more involved in parish activity. As the years went by the name of the organization was changed from the Holy Name Society to the Men's Club.

In the early 70's the Men's Club published a Parish Directory which was distributed without charge to all members of the parish.

In 1978 the Men's Club sponsored the first Monte Carlo Night. It was the brainchild of Jack Medica and has become the biggest money maker ever for the club. It is also responsible for the tremendous growth of membership in the club. There are now 149 active members.

The Men's Club also sponsors an annual golf outing, family picnics, family communion breakfast, weekend retreats, family outdoor mass, and a horse show. Two days are also set aside each year as parish grounds work days where the men roll up their sleeves to beautify the church grounds.

St. Gabriel's is truly much richer because of the hard work, dedication and exuberance of this group. Its spirit is contagious!

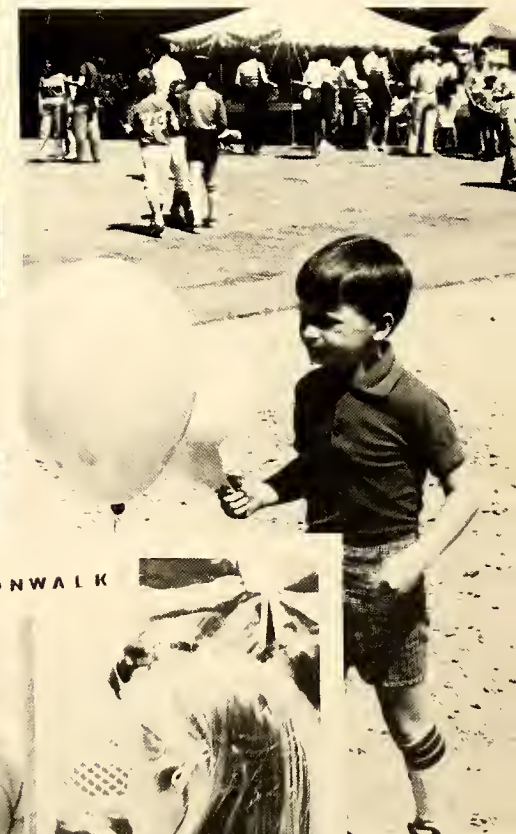
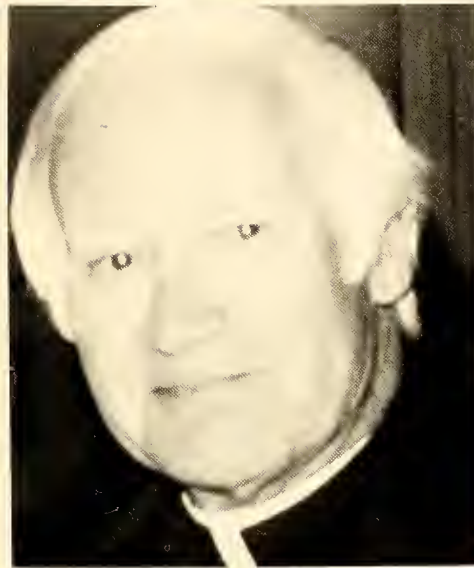
Holy Name Society — 1958.





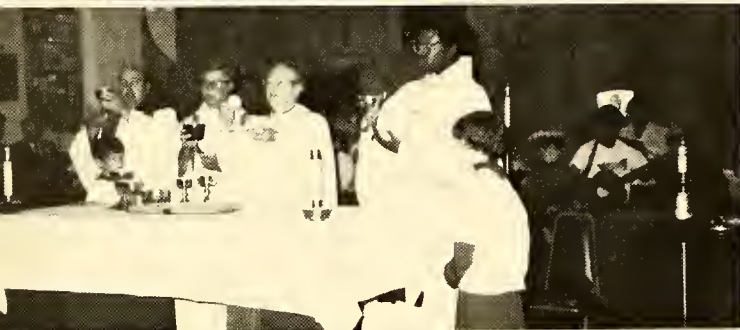
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| March 7 | Girl Scout Anniversary and tribute to St. Gabriel's Silver Anniversary. |
| March 28 | Silver Jubilee Kickoff Dinner and beginning of Parish Retreat. |
| April 24 | Women's Club 25th Anniversary Celebration — International covered-dish dinner. |
| May 1 | Home-School Association Country Fair — Tribute to Silver Anniversary |
| May 2 | Legion of Mary Mass and presentation of anniversary banner. |
| May 23 | Childrens Liturgy Celebration of 25th Anniversary. |
| September 11 | Outdoor mass commemorating the 25th anniversary of St. Gabriel's first mass offered September 15, 1957.
Men's Club Family Picnic. |
| September 12 | Cocktail Buffet at Carmel Country Club celebrating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. |



Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Weekend

Saturday, September 11, 1982



Sunday, September 12, 1982



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In Appreciation . . .

. . . to the many who have contributed to St. Gabriel's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration.

To name all who participated and shared their talents would be impossible. So many came forward to offer their services and sacrifice their time that a true sense of parish family, a genuine faith community, was evidenced.

Thank you, everyone

The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Committee.

